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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

USA COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE COMPANY,	
De	ebtor.
In re:	
USA CAPITAL REALTY ADVISORS, LLC,	
De	ebtor.
In re:	
USA CAPITAL DIVERSIFIED TRUST DEED	
FUND, LLC,	
De	ebtor.
In re:	
USA CAPITAL FIRST TRUST DEED FUND, L	LC,
De	ebtor.
In re:	
USA SECURITIES, LLC,	
De	ebtor.
Affects:	
☐ All Debtors	
☐ USA Commercial Mortgage Company	
☐ USA Securities, LLC	
■ USA Capital Realty Advisors LLC	

☐ USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC

☐ USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC

Case No. BK-S-06-10725 LBR Case No. BK-S-06-10726 LBR Case No. BK-S-06-10727 LBR Case No. BK-S-06-10728 LBR Case No. BK-S-06-10729 LBR

E-FILED on March 2, 2007

Chapter 11

Jointly Administered Under Case No. BK-S-06-10725 LBR

USA CAPITAL REALTY
ADVISORS, LLC'S OBJECTION TO
CLAIM NOS. 37, 38, AND 39 FILED
BY THE PENSION BENEFIT
GUARANTY CORPORATION

Date: April 26, 2007 Time: 9:30 a.m.

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USA Capital Realty Advisors, LLC ("USA Realty"), by and through its counsel and pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 502 and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007, hereby files its objection ("Objection") to the claims of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") filed against USA Realty, which have been designated as Claim No. 37, Claim No. 38, and Claim No. 39 (collectively the "Claims"). In support of its Objection, USA Realty states as follows:

#### I. **JURISDICTION**

1. Under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b)(2)(B) and 1334, this Court has jurisdiction to hear this Objection. The relief requested is available under 11 U.S.C. § 502.

## II. **BACKGROUND**

- 2. On April 13, 2006 (the "Petition Date"), USA Realty filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada ("Court"). USA Commercial Mortgage Company ("USACM"), USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC ("FTDF"), USA Capital Diversified Trust Deed Fund, LLC ("Diversified") (and together with FTDF, the "Funds"), and USA Securities LLC ("USA Securities") (collectively, with USA Realty, the "Debtors") also filed voluntary petitions under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code the same day. All five of the Debtors' bankruptcy cases are being jointly administered [Docket No. 184].
- No trustee or examiner has been appointed and no committee has been formed in 3. USA Realty's bankruptcy case.
- 4. USA Realty and the other Debtors continue to operate their businesses, if any, as debtors-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. Postpetition management of the Debtors is under the direction of Thomas J. Allison of Mesirow Financial Interim Management, LLC ("Mesirow"), who serves as the Chief Restructuring Officer.
- 5. USA Realty is a Nevada limited liability company organized as of January 18, 2001. USA Realty is owned by USA Investment Partners LLC ("USAIP"), and prior to the Petition Date the sole managing member of USA Realty was Joseph Milanowski.
- 6. USA Realty did not at any time have any employees and was not required to contribute to a defined pension benefit plan.

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7.	PBGC has asserted that USA Realty was a member of the "controlled group," as
that term	is described in 29 U.S.C. §1301(a)(14), of the USA Commercial Mortgage Company
Defined Benefit Pension Plan ("Pension Plan"). The Pension Plan was set up and funded by	
USACM	

- 8. On October 20, 2006, the Court entered an order freezing the Pension Plan and approving the appointment of USACM as the successor trustee for the Pension Plan [Docket No. 1612].
- 9. The PBGC filed the Claims on November 9, 2006. Claim No. 39 asserts a claim in an unliquidated amount for pension insurance premiums allegedly owed by USA Realty to the PBGC. Claim No. 38 seeks an estimated \$1,068,233 for minimum funding contributions allegedly owed by USA Realty to the Pension Plan, and Claim No. 37 seeks an estimated \$884,389 for the unfunded benefit liabilities allegedly owed by USA Realty to the PBGC in connection with the Pension Plan. PBGC filed the same three claims against each of the five Debtors, but has subsequently withdrawn its claims against FTDF and DTDF.
- 10. USACM and the PBGC entered into an Agreement for Appointment of Trustee and Termination of Plan, whereby the Pension Plan was terminated effective as of January 15, 2007, and the PBGC was appointed trustee of the Pension Plan.

# III. APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

- 11. Pursuant to section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, any claim for which a proof of claim has been filed will be allowed unless a party in interest objects. If a party in interest objects to the proof of claim, the court, after notice and hearing, shall determine the amount of the claim and shall allow the claim except to the extent that the claim is "unenforceable against the debtor ... under any ... applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is contingent or unmatured." 11 U.S.C. § 502(b).
- 12. A properly filed proof of claim is presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f). However, once an objection to the proof of claim controverts the presumption, the creditor ultimately bears the burden of persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. See Ashford v. Consolidated Pioneer Mortg. (In re Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.), 178 B.R. 222, 226 (B.A.P.

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9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995), aff'd, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996). The ultimate burden of proof as to the validity of a proof of claim "remains at all times upon the claimant." Lundell v. Anchor Constr. Specialists, Inc. (In re Lundell), 223 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000).

## IV. **OBJECTION TO THE PBGC'S CLAIMS**

- 13. USA Realty objects to the Claims on the basis that it never had any employees covered by the Pension Plan and is not liable for any obligations USACM may owe in connection with the Pension Plan.
- 14. Further, USA Realty objects to each of the Claims that the PBGC has asserted against it both to the estimated amounts it claims are owed and the extent to which the PBGC asserts that the Claims are entitled to priority status.
- 15. The amounts of the Claims are unsupported by any documentation but are believed to be based on actuarial assumptions that USA Realty disputes.
- 16. In addition, USA Realty contends that the amounts owed, if any, should be treated as unsecured claims rather than as priority claims to the extent that such claims arose or relate to periods prior to the Petition Date.
- 17. Contrary to PBGC's assertions, amounts owed by USA Realty in connection with the Pension Plan, if any, are not a "tax" entitled to priority under sections 503(b)(1)(B) or 507(a)(8) of the Bankruptcy Code, and PBGC has cited no legal authority holding that such amounts qualify as "taxes" under the Bankruptcy Code.
- 18. Moreover, contrary to PBGC's assertions, no perfected lien entitled to priority has arisen under 29 U.S.C. § 1368(a). The lien entitled to priority under 29 U.S.C. § 1368(a) only comes into being after demand has been made for payment. PBGC made no demand for payment on the Pension Plan prior until after the Petition Date, and a demand, if any, made after the Petition Date that would violate the automatic stay and thus would be void and of no effect. See, e.g., Schwartz v. United States (In re Schwartz), 954 F.2d 569, 571-72 (9th Cir. 1992) (IRS postpetition tax assessment violated automatic stay and was thus void, not merely voidable).
  - 19. Furthermore, any amounts that may be entitled to priority under section 507(a)(5)

- 20. Therefore, PBGC has not asserted an appropriate basis for granting priority status to the full amount of any of the Claims.
- 21. In any event, PBGC concedes in its Claims that the amounts asserted are merely estimates. Therefore, to the extent the Claims are allowable at all, the actual allowable amount of the PBGC's general unsecured claims against USA Realty, and the amount, if any, that is entitled to priority treatment under the Bankruptcy Code, will have to be determined as a contested matter by the Bankruptcy Court, or by agreement of the parties.
- 22. USA Realty expressly reserves the right to raise any additional objections against the Claims or any other claims filed by the PBGC or any other claimant.

# V. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

23. USA Realty requests that the Court disallow the priority status of the Claims asserted by the PBGC, and also disallow the Claims in their entirety as general unsecured claims.

USA Realty further requests that the Court grant such other and further relief as is just and proper.

DATED: March 2, 2007

/s/ Lenard E. Schwartzer, Esq.
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